

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **PRELIMINARY AMMENDMENT PURSUANT TO RCE**

Dear Sir/Madam:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted pursuant to a Request for Continued Examination. Reconsideration and allowance is requested in view of the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** appear on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.